

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

#### Claims:

1. (Original) A method of crosslinking a polysaccharide comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a metal coordinating group having a reactive site,
  - (b) derivatizing a polysaccharide with the metal coordinating group to produce a derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands, and
  - (c) crosslinking the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands with a metal ion to form a metal ligand coordination complex.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the polysaccharide ~~comprises~~ is selected from the group consisting of guar, xanthan, locust bean gum, hydroxy ethyl and hydroxy propyl derivatives of gums, or hydroxyethylcellulose, and combinations thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands is crosslinked with a crosslinking agent comprising a compound chosen from the group consisting of copper, nickel, iron, ruthenium, palladium, platinum, iridium, ~~and~~ cobalt, and combinations thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidentate ligands ~~comprise~~ are selected from the group consisting of ethylenediamine, acetylacetonate ions, dithiocarbamate, 2,2'-bipyridine, 1,10-phenanthroline, or 8-hydroxyquinolinato, and combinations thereof.
5. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the crosslinking agent is present in an amount up to about 500 moles of crosslinking agent per mole of polysaccharide.
6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein step (c) occurs within a wellbore in a subterranean formation.
7. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the polysaccharide comprises guar and the crosslinking agent is a derivative of iron or ruthenium.
8. - 31. (Cancelled)
32. (Original) A metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide produced by a method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a metal coordinating group having a reactive site on the metal coordinating group,

(b) derivatizing a polysaccharide with the metal coordinating group to produce a derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands, and

(c) crosslinking the derivatized polysaccharide having bidentate ligands to form a metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide.

33. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the bidentate ligands comprise 2,2'-bipyridine.

34. (New) The metal ion crosslinked polysaccharide of claim 32 wherein the bidentate ligands comprise 2,2'-bipyridine.